

**CLAIMS**

What is claimed is:

1. A drum release assembly for a drain cleaning machine comprising:  
a sleeve defining an axis of rotation;  
a plate having an inner opening defined about said axis of rotation;  
a latch movably mounted relative to said inner opening and substantially perpendicular to said axis of rotation; and  
a biasing member to bias said latch away from said axis of rotation.
2. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said plate includes an annular disk.
3. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 2, wherein said disk is fixedly mounted to a rotary drum.
4. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said inner opening of said plate is spaced away from a rotary drum.
5. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising a latch sleeve, said latch telescopically mounted within said latch sleeve to extend past said inner opening.
6. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein said latch sleeve extends in a perpendicular arrangement from said sleeve.
7. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 5, wherein said latch sleeve includes a first and second latch sleeve mounted to said sleeve in a T-shaped arrangement.

8. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 1, wherein said latch includes a wedge-shaped face engageable with said inner opening.

9. The release assembly as recited in claim 1, further comprising an actuator handle engageable with said latch.

10. The release assembly as recited in claim 9, wherein said actuating handle includes a cam surface engageable with a pin extending from said latch.

11. A release assembly for a drain cleaning machine comprising:  
a sleeve to rotatably receive a rotary drum shaft defining an axis of rotation;  
an annular disk having an inner opening defined about said axis of rotation;  
a latch sleeve extending from said sleeve in a perpendicular arrangement;  
a latch telescopically mounted within said latch sleeve; and  
a biasing member to bias said latch away from said axis of rotation to retain said disk.
12. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said inner opening of said annular disk is spaced away from a rotary drum.
13. The drum release assembly as recited in claim 11, wherein said latch extends past said inner opening.
14. The release assembly as recited in claim 11, further comprising an actuator handle having a cam surface engageable with a pin extending from said latch.
15. The release assembly as recited in claim 14, wherein said pin extends through a slot defined by a latch sleeve.

16. A drain cleaning machine comprising:  
a support frame;  
a removable rotary drum;  
a rotary drum shaft extending from said rotary drum, said rotary drum shaft defining an axis of rotation;  
a drive assembly to rotate said rotary drum about said axis of rotation;  
a sleeve to rotatably receive said rotary drum shaft defining an axis of rotation;  
an annular disk having an inner opening defined about said axis of rotation, said annular disk mounted to said removable rotary drum, said inner opening spaced away from a face of said removable rotary drum;  
a latch sleeve extending from said sleeve in a perpendicular arrangement;  
a latch telescopically mounted within said latch sleeve; and  
a biasing member to bias said latch away from said axis of rotation to retain said annular disk.
17. The drain cleaning machine as recited in claim 16, wherein said latch includes a wedge-shaped face engagable with said inner opening.
18. The drain cleaning machine as recited in claim 16, further comprising an actuator handle having a cam surface engageable with a pin extending from said latch.
19. The drain cleaning machine as recited in claim 16, further comprising an actuator handle having a cam surface engageable with a pin extending from said latch.
20. The drain cleaning machine as recited in claim 16, wherein said sleeve contains a bearing to receive said rotary drum shaft.